

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 12: CONSERVATION**  
**Chapter 605: GENERAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES**

**§6083. LEASE OPTION**

**1. Lease option.** A person may apply for a lease option that conveys the right to file an application for an aquaculture lease under section 6072, 6072-A or 6072-B for a particular area of the submerged lands of the State and for a defined period of time. The department may not accept an application for an aquaculture lease pursuant to section 6072, 6072-A or 6072-B or an application for a limited-purpose aquaculture license pursuant to section 6072-C in an area that is under a lease option, except as described in subsection 2.

[ 2009, c. 229, §10 (NEW) . ]

**2. Other claims of preference.** A lease option under this section does not supersede the provisions for application preference in section 6072, subsection 8 and section 6072-A, subsection 12. Competing aquaculture lease applications from persons claiming preference under section 6072, subsection 8 or section 6072-A, subsection 12 must be evaluated by the department to determine if the claim of preference is valid and, if it is found to be valid, the holder of the lease option may cancel the lease option and receive a fee refund prorated for the remainder of the term of the lease option.

[ 2009, c. 229, §10 (NEW) . ]

**3. Issuance criteria.** The applicant for a lease option under this section must demonstrate that the site is being assessed in good faith for its suitability for aquaculture and that there is a reasonable likelihood that an application for an aquaculture lease will be filed during the term of the lease option. The area proposed for lease option may not contain an existing aquaculture lease or license or include an area that is part of an aquaculture lease or license application under consideration by the department.

[ 2009, c. 229, §10 (NEW) . ]

**4. Fee.** The fee for issuance of a lease option under this section may be up to \$500 for the first acre plus up to \$50 for each additional acre, the amount to be established in rules adopted by the commissioner. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[ 2009, c. 229, §10 (NEW) . ]

**SECTION HISTORY**

2009, c. 229, §10 (NEW).

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